

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1        1. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting viable gas-borne matter  
2 comprising:
  - 3              an inlet;
  - 4              an outlet;
  - 5              a plate provided intermediate the inlet and the outlet and having a first surface  
6 facing the inlet and a second surface facing the outlet; and
  - 7              a substance provided on the first surface of the plate for capturing viable matter  
8 carried in a gas drawn through the inlet;
    - 9              wherein the substance is configured to maintain the viable matter in a living state  
10 without promoting growth of the viable matter and comprises a hydrocolloid and at least one  
11 nutrient.
- 1        2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is at least one of a gel  
2 and a semi-solid material.
- 1        3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the substance is relatively colorless.
- 1        4. (Cancelled)
- 1        5. (Cancelled)
- 1        6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid  
2 comprises at least one of agar, carrageenan, and alginate.

1           7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid  
2   comprises at least one of arabic, karaya, guar, locust tara, tamarind, daraya, ghatti, tragacanth,  
3   cellulose, starch, pectin, knonjac, glactomannans, xyloglucan, and combinations thereof.

1           8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises  
2   at least one of curdlan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, inulin, ~~CRC biopulomer~~,  
3   and combinations thereof.

1           9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid  
2   comprises at least one of gelatin, caseinate, whey, and chitosan.

1           10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is one of a  
2   sugar, a cell culture serum, an amino acid, and a blood lipid.

1           11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein the nutrient is selected from the group  
2   consisting of glucose, sucrose, bovine serum, glutamic acid, albumin, hemoglobin, charcoal,  
3   sodium glycerophosphate, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium chloride, potassium citrate, potassium  
4   chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, monopotassium phosphate, disodium phosphate,  
5   sodium thioglycollate, L-cysteine hydrochloric, peptone, sodium phosphate, potassium  
6   phosphate, and combinations thereof.

1           12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient also acts as a  
2   pH buffer.

1           13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance further  
2   comprises at least one of a humectant, water, and an anti-bacterial agent.

1           14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is selected  
2   from the group consisting of mineral oil, plant oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, vegetable oil, corn oil,  
3   molasses, honey, corn syrup, fruitrim, invertase, invert sugar, glycerin, Triacetin, an  
4   hydrogenated glucose syrup, a polydextrose nutrient, and combinations thereof.

1        15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is  
2 selected from propylene glycol, vancomycin, and combinations thereof.

1        16. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the substance further comprises an  
2 antifungal.

1        17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance may be stored without  
2 refrigeration between approximately 12 to 24 months.

1        18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is configured to allow  
2 removal of the viable matter from the substance in a liquid.

1        19. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the liquid is water.

1        20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter  
2 comprises at least one of insects, insect parts, and skin cells.

1        21. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises a virus.

1        22. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises bacteria.

1        23. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the inlet is configured for coupling to a  
2 device configured to remove matter from the gas before the gas enters the inlet.

1        24. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured for coupling to  
2 an exterior surface of a sampling device.

1        25. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a top portion  
2 including the inlet and a bottom portion including the outlet, wherein the device is adapted to  
3 allow decoupling of the top portion and the bottom portion to remove the plate.

1        26. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a single-use product that  
2 is discarded after capturing viable matter.

1        27. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device includes a second inlet,  
2        wherein the inlets are provided at different locations in relation to the suspension medium.

1        28. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plate is made of at least one of  
2        glass, porous glass fibers, a ceramic material, a porous polymeric material, and a metal.

1        29. (Previously Presented) A collection device for use in sampling gas that contains  
2        viable matter comprising:

3              a suspension medium for preserving viable matter in a living state without  
4        promoting growth of the viable matter; and

5              means for directing a flow of gas toward the suspension medium;

6              wherein the suspension medium is configured for capturing viable matter included  
7        in the gas as the gas is drawn through the means for directing a flow of gas and comprises a  
8        hydrocolloid and at least one nutrient.

1        30. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the means for directing a  
2        flow of gas comprises an inlet.

1        31. (Original) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the inlet tapers from a top  
2        of the inlet to a bottom of the inlet.

1        32. (Original) The collection device of claim 31, wherein the bottom of the inlet has a  
2        rectangular shape when viewed in the axial direction.

1        33. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension  
2        medium is a gel or a semisolid material.

1        34. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium is  
2        configured to preserve the viable matter without promoting further maturation of the viable  
3        matter.

1       35. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium  
2 includes a humectant, an anti-bacterial agent, and a hydrocolloid.

1       36. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium  
2 comprises water and at least one of mineral oil, glycerin, galatin, and carageenan.

1       37. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium  
2 comprises water and at least one of gellan, glycerin, calcium chloride, a polyol, honey, corn  
3 syrup, and pectin.

1       38. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises  
2 at least one of a bacterium and a virus.

1       39. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable  
2 matter comprises at least one of a anthrax, an insect, an insect part.

1       40. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the collection device is a  
2 cassette having a top portion and a bottom portion and a plate provided within the cassette,  
3 wherein the top portion and bottom portion may be separated to remove the plate.

1       41-66 (Cancelled)

1       67. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises  
2 at least one of curdlan, xanthan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, and inulin, ~~and~~  
3 ~~CRC biopolimer.~~

1       68. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is a protein.

1       69. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is a polyol.

1       70. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is  
2 chloramphenicol.

1           71. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter  
2 comprises mold spores.

1           72. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension  
2 medium comprises water and starch.

1           73. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable  
2 matter comprises a mold spore.

1           74. (Previously Presented) A collection device for gas-borne viable matter  
2 comprising:

3           a plate;

4           a substance provided on the plate and comprising a hydrocolloid material and at  
5 least one nutrient for capturing viable matter and maintaining the viable matter in a living state  
6 without promoting growth; and

7           an inlet for directing a gas including the viable matter toward the substance.

1           75. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the hydrocolloid  
2 material includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of curdlan, xanthan,  
3 dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, and inulin, ~~and CRC biopolymer~~.

1           76. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance  
2 further comprises a humectant.

1           77. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 76, wherein the humectant  
2 is a polyol and the nutrient is a protein.

1           78. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance  
2 further comprises an anti-bacterial agent comprising chloramphenicol.

1           79. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance  
2       is a gel.

1           80. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection  
2       device is configured for coupling to a sampling device.

1           81. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection  
2       device comprises a top portion comprising an inlet and a bottom portion removably coupled to  
3       the top portion.